

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, When I think of Francis Scott Key's The Star-Spangled Banner, the fourth and final stanza of our National Anthem rarely comes to mind. It reads: Oh, thus be it ever when free men shall stand Between their loved homes and war's desolation;

Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land

Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!

As we approach Memorial Day, it is in the spirit of these words that we honor the noble spirit of the brave American men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our nation as they served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Their ultimate sacrifice serves as a constant reminder of the high cost of freedom and our hope for a safer and more peaceful world.

On this day, I would like to acknowledge and remember the soldiers from Georgia who have fallen while serving our nation during the past year.

We Remember: SPC Jamaal Rashard Addison, CPT Tristan Neil Aitken, SPC Marvin Antonio Campo-Siles, SGT Michael Tyron Crockett, SFC Ricky Leon Crockett, SPC Marshall Lane Edgerton, SSG Bobby Charles Franklin, PV2 Benjamin Lee Freeman, SSG Nathaniel Hart, Jr., SPC Christopher James Holland, A1C Antoine Jermaine Holt, SPC Justin Weaver Johnson, SPC Nathaniel Henry Johnson, SPC Kevin John Klinesmith, Jr., CPT Edward Jason Korn, SGT David Terrell Nutt, PFC Diego Fernando Rincon, PFC William Rodriques Strange III, MSG Thomas Ruel Thigpin, Sr., PFC Marquis Antoine Whitaker, and CSM Jerry Lee Wilson.

It is you, our brothers, and our sisters who have paid the ultimate sacrifice—and those who still fight today—who stand between our beloved home, our country, and war's desolation. It is you who will be forever etched in our memory, forever in our hearts, and to whom we will be forever thankful.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, every year on the last Monday in the month of May, our Nation gathers together to remember and honor those who have so honorably served our country. We memorialize those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and for the values we cherish so deeply.

The sacrifice a soldier makes is always in our hearts and minds, but this Memorial Day we have a special remembrance. This year, in addition to all of those brave men and women who have perished in wars past, we honor the 120 soldiers in Operation Enduring Freedom and nearly 800 soldiers in Operation Iraqi

Freedom who have lost their lives. Let us pay special tribute to these soldiers, who served their country with valor, and whose sacrifices we will never forget.

On this day, we also commemorate two important anniversaries nearly upon us. June 6th with mark the 60th anniversary of the D-Day forces landing on the beaches of Normandy. As a result of the bravery, skill, and determination of the heroic Americans who served in World War II, the invasion was successful and led to the eventual destruction of a totalitarian Nazi regime and the liberation of millions of enslaved peoples in Europe. It is fitting that today many of the "Greatest Generation" gather in Washington, D.C. to dedicated the new World War II Memorial on the grounds of the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

And June 22nd will mark the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944—what we now know as the GI Bill of Rights. We are reminded this year, by those currently returning from operations abroad and by the anniversary of this celebrated bill, of the importance of caring for our veterans as they return home. The GI Bill of Rights was one of many promises we have made to those serving our country, and one of many we must keep. We must not falter in our promise to provide veterans with quality healthcare upon their return. We must ensure that when veterans pass, their widows—who also sacrifice so much as spouses of our soldiers—receive the benefits they we've promised them. And we must provide the foundation for our veterans to continue leading healthy and productive lives upon their return, in the form of home loans, vocational rehabilitation, educational benefits, and more.

I want to also take time to honor our troops from New Mexico that have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan: Senior Airman Jason Cunningham of Carlsbad; Army Specialist James Pirtle of Carlsbad; Air Force Special Operations pilot Captain Tamara Archuleta of Albuquerque; Marine Private First Class Christopher Ramos of Albuquerque; and Marine Corporal Aaron Austin of Lovington. I want to acknowledge these soldiers on their bravery and for representing not only our country, but also the state of New Mexico. They have truly made their families, their state, and their Nation proud.

Throughout our Nation's history, our armed forces have been on the front lines fighting for our lives with their own. We must never take for granted the freedoms for which they fought, and we will never forget the meaning of the ultimate sacrifice.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and privilege for me to participate today in this opportunity for members of the House to pay tribute to fallen heroes across the Nation and in our individual Districts.

It is difficult to find the right words to adequately express the deep respect I have for those who have sacrificed their lives for our great Nation. America would not have been

born, nor would our Nation's citizens enjoy the unparalleled blessings of liberty, freedom, and justice for all, but for the courageous and selfless sense of patriotism of countless men and women throughout America's history such as the fallen heroes we honor today.

These are the names of the heroes, with ties to the 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, who gave their lives for us while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan: Army Specialist Ryan G. Carlock; Army Specialist Martin W. Kondor; Army Specialist George A. Mitchell; Navy SEAL Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts; and Army Staff Sergeant Kimberly A. Voelz.

My deepest sympathies go out to the family members and friends of our fallen heroes. I hope all citizens will keep them in our prayers and forever remember the selfless sacrifices that these heroes have made on our behalf.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, as America celebrates Memorial Day, it is important for us to remember those dedicated soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The freedoms we enjoy today are a direct result of the sacrifices made by young men and women throughout our nation. Each generation must renew its commitment to defend our liberties, and a new generation of young Americans are today fighting bravely for freedom's cause. The War on Terrorism has claimed over 750 American lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and four of those brave soldiers came from my district in Colorado. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Marine Corporal Randal Rosacker, Staff Sergeant Mark Lawton, Private First Class Chance Phelps, and Sergeant First Class Randy Rehn. Our nation will long endure due to the strength and character of men and women like these four courageous soldiers who served our country.

Randal Rosacker was the oldest of three children and was known as a born leader. In high school, his teammates voted him captain of the baseball team. Randal had always wanted to become a marine and joined the corps when he turned eighteen, despite scholarship offers to play college football. By doing so, Randal was upholding the finest military traditions of both his family and this nation, and I know Randal's family and friends take pride in the uniform he wore and the ideals for which he fought.

As a young man, Mark Lawton was an excellent athlete and ran track for Moffat County High School. Prior to his service with the Army Reserves, Mark spent fourteen years in the Marine Corps, serving in the first Gulf War. In his civilian life, Mark worked for a local coal company as a heavy equipment operator. Most importantly, he was a family man who leaves behind a wife and two sons. While his family's feelings of loss and sorrow are deep, they can take solace in the fact that Mark died in the service of the people and ideals of our nation.

A tall and athletic nineteen-year-old, Chance Phelps attended Moffat County and Palisade high schools where he was known for his fun-loving nature and being an avid outdoorsman. He came from a family with a rich military tradition, his father John being a Vietnam veteran, and his sister Kelley working at the Pentagon. After the terrorist bombings of 9–11, Chance knew that he had to do something for his nation, and resolved to join the Marines. As a dedicated member of our Armed Forces and as a patriot, he answered the call of duty, embarking on a journey to defend freedom and independence.

Randy Rehn was known as an athlete and a prankster. At Niwot High School, he was a football player and an all-state wrestler. He was a loving husband and the new father of a six-month-old girl. I know that Randy's daughter, family and friends take pride in the uniform he wore and the ideals for which he fought.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice of these young soldiers and their families. Throughout our history, men and women in uniform have fought our battles with distinction and courage. At the dawn of this new century, the United States military has once again been called to defend our freedom against a new and emerging threat. Soldiers like Randal, Mark, Chance, and Randy embody America's determination to lead the world in confronting that threat, and their devotion to that cause will not be forgotten. These brave soldiers have made all Americans proud and I know they have the respect and admiration of all of my colleagues here today.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, as we reflect on this Memorial Day and remember our fallen heroes, I would like to offer special recognition for four incredibly brave men from my district who sacrificed their lives fighting the war on terror.

On September 10, 2003, Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Robsky, Jr. of the 759th Ordnance Company was killed when an improvised explosive device he was called on to neutralize detonated. Staff Sgt. Robsky was 31 years old.

On September 15, 2003, 31 year old Staff Sgt. Kevin Kimmerly of North Creek, New York was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on the streets of Baghdad.

On April 8 of this year, a rocket-propelled grenade killed Army Spc. Isaac Michael Nieves as insurgents in Bani Saad, Iraq, ambushed his patrol. Spc. Nieves, from Sidney, New York, was 20 years old.

And on April 11, Easter Sunday of this year, 21 year old Pfc. Nathan P. Brown of South Glens Falls, New York was ambushed while on patrol with his unit in Samarra, Iraq. Nathan Brown served in the Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, 1st Armored Division out of Glens Falls, New York.

Each of these remarkable young men left behind family and friends they loved and cared for. They were cut down in the prime of

life by those who hate the very freedoms these soldiers, these Americans, these heroes, were trying to protect.

What makes their sacrifice even more special is the fact that not only were they fighting against the terrorists who have declared war on America, but that they were also fighting for millions of Iraqi citizens who yearn for the freedoms that so many of us take for granted.

With each passing day in the war on terror I think about these heroes and the ultimate sacrifice they made so our mission can be victorious. It is because of men like Joe Robsky, Kevin Kimmerly, Isaac Michael Nieves, Nathan Brown, and the hundreds of other Americans who lost their lives that we must succeed in our mission. I refuse to tarnish their memories by fighting this war in vain.

This Memorial Day, and all others afterward, will have extra significance for me. Casting a vote to send our troops into harm's way is the most difficult thing I have done since coming to Congress. While I remain convinced of the justness of our cause, I now have an even greater appreciation for our men and women fighting the war on terror thousands of miles away from their homes and families.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to honor the memories of the 20th District's bravest soldiers. I will spend my Memorial Day praying for their families, for the successful completion of their mission and for the safe return of all our troops. God bless them all, and God bless America.

CONGRATULATING BOB LINDNER
AS HE CELEBRATES HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Bob Lindner, who is retiring from the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Over our nearly twenty year working relationship, there were a few times that he may not have realized that I considered him a friend, but I am proud to state for the record that I do.

Bob Lindner is a model example of the dedicated but unsung civil servants who make our government work. Those of us who are elected or appointed to policy level positions like to think we are running things, but the truth is that policy is only as good as it is implemented. Bob is a master of understanding the underlying policy and applying it in a practical way to achieve the desired outcome.

Bob, who will turn 62 next week, is retiring after 39 years of civil service. He most recently served as the Chief of the Planning Division for the Baltimore District for the past five years. He is responsible for a staff of 75 engineers and scientists. He has led a strong Civil Works Program that includes the geographic area of our Nation's Capital and portions of six States, and includes projects in the planning, design and construction phases.

Bob's career has been highlighted by numerous accomplishments, including the Scranton and Olyphant Local Flood Protection Projects, Lock Haven Flood Protection Project and numerous projects solving flood control, navigation and erosion problems. It has been

through the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project that I came to work most closely with Bob. In fact, it took me some time to forgive him for retiring before the project is completed; however, I have come to recognize that he has devoted much of his time in the Corps to training the next generation of managers to follow in his footsteps.

Over the years we faced many obstacles with the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project, including budget cuts, an audit, and conflicts among partners, but Bob always managed to keep the project moving forward. We had our battles when I thought the Corps should be more flexible, and he thought I was a bit too ambitious. However, I always knew he had the best interest of the country, the Corps, and the project at heart, and we grew to respect one another.

From 1992 to 1999, Bob was a manager in the Programs and Project Management Division. This included six years as Acting Assistant Chief of the Division. He helped oversee the development and execution of a \$2 billion dollar planning, design and construction program dispersed over 27 military installations and civil works and environmental restoration projects in the Susquehanna and Potomac River Basins and Chesapeake Bay.

Prior to 1992, Bob served as Chief of the Project Development Branch in the Planning Division, where he was responsible for the study and plan formulation phase for Civil Works water resources projects. Many of the projects constructed or in construction today, started as studies under Bob's leadership—including those in Scranton, Olyphant, the Wyoming Valley and other projects that reflect highly on the Baltimore District today.

Bob is a trusted confidante. He is known throughout the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works community for his practical solutions to complex issues.

Bob has been honored through numerous awards, including the Army Superior Civilian Service Award, the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Outstanding Supervisor of the Year for the Baltimore District and Outstanding Supervisor of the Year for the Federal Executive Board for Baltimore Region.

While Bob is a hard worker, he is completely dedicated to his wife Doris and their two children, Nancy and David. They reside in Baldwin, Maryland.

I want to thank Bob for his service to the Nation through his Army and Corps of Engineers career. Bob's knowledge, skill, and abilities developed over a lifetime of dedicated service as an engineer and civil servant, his contribution to his profession and society, and his honesty and ethical standards make him deserving of our recognition today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representative please join me in congratulating Bob Lindner and wish him all the best for a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ARTISTIC
TALENTS OF TYRON MORRISON

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous artistic ability of a